

Education of Homeless Children and Youths

The Frederic Board of Education will ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to its educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging academic standards, are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless, are protected from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness, and are not stigmatized by school personnel. The Unity elementary principal, or designee of the District Administrator, will be the local educational agency liaison for homeless children. The liaison will serve as one of the primary contacts between homeless families and school staff, District personnel, shelter workers and other service providers. The liaison will coordinate services to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically.

Definition of Homeless Children (as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act)

The term “homeless children” (twenty-one years of age and younger) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence due to economic hardship and includes children who are:

- a. Temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up)
- b. Living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- c. Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- d. Abandoned in hospitals
- e. A waiting foster care placement
- f. Have a night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- g. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- h. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Enrollment

Homeless children shall be enrolled in District schools in accordance with established procedures and legal requirements. The school shall immediately enroll the child, even if the child lacks records normally required for enrollment. Records will immediately be requested from the previous school. If the child needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied homeless children to the District Homeless Coordinator, who is expected to assist in obtaining the necessary immunization or medical records.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The District

Homeless liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving the notice of the dispute.

The parent or guardian of the homeless child shall be provided with a written explanation of the appealed decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or child to appeal the decision to the office of Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Programs and Services

Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected. These comparable services include public pre-school programs and educational programs or services for which a homeless student meets the eligibility criteria.

Transportation

The District will provide transportation for homeless children, at the request of the parent/guardian to the school of origin. In the case of different school districts, the two districts will agree on a method for transportation and share costs. If a family chooses to stay in the school of origin after permanent housing has been found, transportation (when possible) will be provided for the duration of that school year. Ref: Wisconsin Statutes Section 118.13 [Student nondiscrimination] McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et. seq.) [School placement options for homeless children]